Amendments To the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A web server comprising software modules having at least a first software module, the one or more software modules ~~comprises~~ providing a first mechanism for implementing an automation functionality and a second mechanism to directly access the real-time communication level of a real-time Ethernet.

12. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a connection to a communication network.

13. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 12, wherein the communication network is the Internet.

14. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 11, wherein Internet protocols are provided for communication between the software modules and for communication between the software modules and components outside of the web server.

15. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 12, wherein Internet protocols are provided for communication between the software modules and for communication between the software modules and components outside of the web server.

16. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server is adapted for configuration and administration of the software modules.

17. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 12, wherein the web server is adapted for configuration and administration of the software modules.

18. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 14, wherein the web server is adapted for configuration and administration of the software modules.

19. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the first software module comprises a connection to an industrial automation system.

20 - 22. (canceled)

23. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a connection to the Internet via a firewall.

24. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server is connected via a communication network to a web browser as a control and monitoring system.

25. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 12, wherein the web server is connected via a communication network to a web browser as a control and monitoring system.

26. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 14, wherein the web server is connected via a communication network to a web browser as a control and monitoring system.

27. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 11, wherein the web server comprises a real-time operating system.

28. (previously presented) The web server according to claim 12, wherein the web server comprises a real-time operating system.

29. (currently amended) An automation system comprising a web server having software modules, comprising ~~wherein at least a first software module comprises~~ a first mechanism for implementing an automation functionality and a second mechanism to directly access the real-time communication level of a real-time Ethernet.

30. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a web server software, configured to operate on a web server, having one or more software modules, the ~~wherein at least a first~~ software comprising ~~module comprises~~ a first mechanism for implementing an automation functionality and a second mechanism to directly access the real-time communication level of a real-time Ethernet.

31. (new) The web server of claim 11 wherein the first mechanism is a controller of components and processes, wherein the web server includes a TCP/IP stack and wherein direct access to the real-time communication level is effected by a direct connection between the TCP/IP stack and an automation device with communication by means of a TCP/IP-based real-time ethernet protocol.

32. (new) The automation system of claim 29 wherein the first mechanism is a controller of components and processes, wherein the web server includes a TCP/IP stack and wherein direct access to the real-time communication level is effected by a direct connection between the TCP/IP stack and an automation device with communication by means of a TCP/IP-based real-time ethernet protocol.

33. (new) The computer program product of claim 30 wherein the first mechanism is a controller of components and processes, wherein the web server includes a TCP/IP stack and wherein direct access to the real-time communication level is effected by a direct connection between the TCP/IP stack and an automation device with communication by means of a TCP/IP-based real-time ethernet protocol.